

THRIFT NOT A CURE

COMES J. H. TREGOE, described as secretary-treasurer of the National Association of Credit Men, proclaiming, "The dance of industrial death in which the people of America are now participating should cease before they have to pay the piper. Thrift is in our opinion, the expression of real patriotism in these days just as it was in the period of the war."

Who is there that does not practice thrift? Bank deposits grow continually larger. Funds are not lacking for the promotion of new enterprises. Hands are lacking with which to perform the labor of the day.

What is needed is not more thrift, but more production, not more saving, but more workers, not more paring of expenditures, but more inventions doing more work faster.

Nothing can be gained by the continual yelping, for it amounts to that, of smug philosophers who have nothing to offer except injunctions to thrift.

The greatest evil in the American system, and the greatest single source of high prices is the antique and wasteful system of distribution, which places a horde of middle men between every commodity and its ultimate distribution to the consumer.

The next greatest source of high prices is the war bill, which is being paid off by taxation which is being charged into commodities.

Third in order in producing high prices are the enlarged profits taken by hundreds of industries, such as the so-called Woolen trust.

Fourth in order is scarcity, which is not great, but enough to permit more profiteering than could exist without it.

The source of apprehension should not be sought in prices, but in that ferment, expressed throughout the world, by which radical changes in the existing order may be brought about.

Men of brains should rather concern themselves about the so-called proletarian unrest, than about those minor and relatively unimportant matters which have to do with prices.

Prices and wages tend to follow each other, not completely, for the proportion of the community that lives on income will suffer unduly, in a period like this.

But by the adoption of the Fisher dollar, or some similar monetary device, wages, salaries and income could be made to keep pace with prices, so that every elevation in prices would be the cause of a corresponding elevation in the purchasing power of the dollar paid in income, wages or salaries.

Now while wages are high and work is plentiful should be sought the means by which evolutionary economic progress may be obtained, rather than the revolutionary economic progress which so imminently threatens.

THE WINE AND BEER PLANK

AN ESTEEMED contemporary denounces the Democratic party for adopting a plank favoring wine and beer. But this was the only way to the road called straight. The great majority of the Democratic party in Connecticut are against prohibition complete. The plank is a statement of their true position. In it there is no deceit, no pretense, but a straightforward declaration of will and purpose.

The Republican party covered up. It concealed its purposes. Its speakers will go about pretending to be one thing in church parlors, and something else in Mayor's Wilson's numerous drinking clubs.

The Connecticut Republicans in Congress voted against prohibition. Governor Holcomb is not a prohibitionist by personal habit, or public practice. The Republican senators from Connecticut voted against prohibition. Connecticut is not a prohibition state. It is one of three States that did not ratify the prohibition amendment.

Since political parties exist to represent their people, what just complaint can be made because the Democratic party frankly and openly does so.

Or do we prefer the painted method, the hypocritical method of the Republican party, which supports every sort of illegality, but pretends to do otherwise?

THE WORST CRIME

TWO MEN took two women joy riding. The car overturned, caught fire and one of the women burned to death. The men, who might have saved their companion, ran away, fearing the disgrace that would follow detection. The other girl they dragged away with them. She screamed, "Don't leave Helen. We can't leave Helen. She is burning to death."

Helen did burn to death. Those who abandoned her have been apprehended. It is to be hoped they will be punished with the maximum penalty. Such cowardice is worse than murder.

POPULATION OF BRIDGEPORT

THE POPULATION of Bridgeport as disclosed by the Federal census does not measure up to the hopes of boosting citizens, nor to the proportions deduced from telephone books, city directories or school enumeration. Nevertheless the census is and must remain for ten years the only official source of population figures, and Bridgeport will have to be content with knowing that its growth has been great and substantial, though less than its enthusiastic citizenship had expected, by nearly 40,000.

This disappointment will be endured with patience. Bridgeport will decline to imitate Hartford, whose Courant, from the period of the census of 1910, until that of 1920, made the welkin ring with its shouting against the official returns. The Bridgeport figures are a double disappointment, in that they do not disclose the community of 200,000 which was confidently expected. The figures for Stratford, Fairfield and other suburbs will scarcely show the almost 57,000 souls necessary to reach the 200,000 point.

The suspension of the war activities by the Remington Arms Co., caused, undoubtedly, a sharper decline than optimism had anticipated. The largeness of this loss justifies the conclusion that there will be an equally large accession when the General Electric Company occupies the plant which the Remington Arms left vacant.

WAGES, LIVING COSTS AND SUGAR

THE LABOR UNIONS of England and the United States have come to an economic crisis. As a result of the conditions the union leaders have largely abandoned the idea that every condition can be met by an increase in wages. The disposition is to check the rise in prices, in preference to changing the rate of wages.

Even the unions are becoming fearful of the consequences that may flow from the "vicious circles."

The Triple Alliance, which includes the British miners and Transport Workers has called in representatives from the Labor Congress and the co-operative movement, to prepare and offer to the government recommendations "for such actions as will substantially reduce present high costs."

In this country the Railroad Brotherhoods continue to give more weight to prices than they give to wages. The Brotherhoods have presented to the War Labor Board conclusions in which it is attempted to show that high prices are due to profiteering.

In the studies upon which the report is based, sugar is included, shoes, meat products and some other items. Of sugar it was said that the labor cost of producing increased but 15 per cent., the price increased 300 per cent. at wholesale, and the net profits of twelve chief producers of sugar increased from \$11,000,000 to \$34,000,000. The large part of the profit in the investigated commodities was attributed to distribution.

Sugar seems to furnish an instance in which two elements contribute to the high cost. There is profiteering in it, of a greedy and dangerous type, and the methods by which sugar is distributed are wasteful.

Some additional light is thrown upon the combined profiteering and waste which characterizes the distribution of sugar by James I. Blakeslee, fourth assistant postmaster general, who, in a letter to Arthur Brisbane, the distinguished editor, asserts that the post office, under suitable conditions, which ought to be attainable, can distribute sugar at several cents under the present market. Here is the difficulty in the way, as described by Mr. Blakeslee:

Within the past ten days 30,000 pounds of sugar was mailed by the Franklin Refinery in Philadelphia to Wagner and Company, Washington, D. C. An additional 20,000 pounds will be shipped today and tomorrow.

"This sugar was sold at the refinery at 14.2c per pound. The parcel post rate of 1.1c per pound made the price delivered to Wagner and Company 15.3c per pound. Some of this sugar was sold to our postal employees at 12c per pound, whereupon the Post Office Department store requested a quotation on 15 tons, or 30,000 pounds, from the refinery, and was advised that the price had increased to 17.7c per pound at the refinery, and that our order would have to be placed through Siloussa & Brockett, sugar brokers for the refinery in this city, who, under the present system, in turn distribute the product to Wagner and Company and one or two other firms, who act as commission merchants, and who, in turn, distribute to D. P. Collins, Wilkins and Company, Crovo & Price, and various wholesalers, who then distribute to retailers.

"These several operations and the incidental costs and profits necessary to the conduct of brokerage, commission houses, wholesalers and retailer enterprises, result in a price of approximately 23c to 25c per pound, delivered to the ultimate consumer."

Mr. Blakeslee estimates four cents a pound as the least amount that would be saved, to the consumer by a distribution from the refinery direct to the retailer, who is allowed in the estimate a profit of three cents a pound.

Before such a system could be arranged it would be necessary for the refinery to sell direct to all purchasers, or it would be necessary for government to fix the wholesale price, and require the goods to be delivered at this price to any purchaser. So long as the original producer of sugar declines to reach the market except through a long chain of intermediaries, so long will distribution wastes be great, and profiteering, greater.

In the final summing up of conditions waste will probably be ascertained as the chief enemy of material prosperity; the waste of inferior methods, of idleness, of loafing on the job, of marginal speculation and of all things whatever by which men attempt to live without rendering adequate service.

THE PROTEST OF 88 CONGRESSMEN

TIMES CHANGE and the protest of 88 congressmen, addressed to the British prime minister, is not the revolutionary instrument it would have been, had it been uttered before the war.

Since the war the League of Nations has come into being. Although America has not entered the League, Great Britain has. Under the Covenant, it is provided, in Article II, that it is the privilege of any state, whenever it knows of anything which may impair the good feeling between nations, or create a risk of war, to call that matter to the attention of the offending state.

The opening paragraph of the protest says, "With the profound conviction that further awards and acts of war should be avoided, and, believing that wholesale arrests without arraignment or trial disturb the peace and tranquility of a people," which is a direct and plain appeal to the new principle of international comity, expressed in the Covenant of the League. This is calling attention to something which tends to impair the good feeling between nations.

The closing words of the protest contain a further development of the new principle, the effect of which has already been described by President Wilson. The protest is made "out of our friendliness to the people's of England and Ireland and in the name of international peace."

The League of Nations is a fact, and America, without being a member of it, makes application of one of its leading principles, in the interest of good feeling between this country and Great Britain, and in support of the claim of Ireland for justice.

DR. ABBOTT'S EULOGY OF ROOSEVELT

IN THE REPORT of Dr. Abbott's remarks commendatory of the late Col. Roosevelt appears the following:

"This speech," Dr. Abbott said, "originated from the failure of the governor of Khartoum to take summary measures on the assassin of Butros Pasha. Roosevelt and his party of which I was a member arrived in Khartoum on the Nile on the day that Butros was slain in broad daylight by a young Egyptian, a member of a nationalist party which corresponds to the present day Bolsheviki."

"At a banquet given to Roosevelt that night by civil and military officials of the town the assassination was an absorbing topic of conversation. Roosevelt vigorously condemned the apparent timorousness of the governor."

"What would you have done," he was asked?

"I would have gone out after the assassin, given him a drum-head trial, and, of course, as there were witnesses to the killing, I would have ordered him shot."

"Someone ventured that the government was in the habit of ordering the authorities to go slow in dealing with such matters."

"I would have replied to such orders from the home office, 'I can't go slow, because the slayer is dead,'" Roosevelt explained himself.

I would take such action, Roosevelt said in justification "because I don't believe the cause of human liberty is advanced by assassination."

The judicial trial of persons accused of crime is, as it exists today, the outgrowth of a long period of struggle and agitation. The drum head court is an earlier institution. To kill instantly whoever offended was a characteristic of savage justice.

Mr. Roosevelt proposed as a means of punishing an assassin, a drum head court martial, that is to say lynch law, which is itself a species of assassination. He would have killed

ed the man, he said "because there were witnesses to the killing." It is not however, the custom of civilized men to punish with death every man who commits a homicide, but the penalty will be mitigated by the facts. Reminded that the people back home, that is to say, civilization, might object to such summary methods, Mr. Roosevelt replied, "I would have replied, I can't go slow because the man is dead."

Fortunately the Colonel did not commit this savage wrong, for the matter was none of his, he being but a visitor in a strange land. Fortunate is it for his memory that such a crime does not stain it.

If Roosevelt is to be commemorated for his Americanism, and for his support of the constitution, such incidents as that of Egypt would better be omitted by his eulogists, who in such a thing give a color more of Bolshevism than of constitutionalism.

DEMOCRATIC WOMEN ORGANIZE

THE ORGANIZATION of a Connecticut Alliance of Democratic women was successfully and even brilliantly effected at the Brooklawn club, yesterday afternoon. The leadership of the organization is rather too much localized, but this defect may be remedied at leisure. Mrs. Hincks, who headed the Bridgeport committee, which had charge of the dinner, must have felt a sense of elation as she looked over the assemblage that met to organize Connecticut women for political activity in one of the two great parties. Mrs. Hincks is one of those who fought the suffrage fight when the prospect of success seemed very distant. The almost miraculous triumph of a cause which seemed so hopeless will be one of the wonders of history.

There have been other political dinners in Connecticut in which women were the chief actors, but this is the first in which women have met, without the guidance of the political leadership of men, to undertake a large political task, nothing less than the organization, for Democracy, of the women of Connecticut.

PROVING THE CASE

THERE IS nothing like experiment to prove the truth of the case. Before women received the ballot it was freely said that they would never, use the ballot if they had it. They would never, never vote. In California they had a primary election yesterday of which the following is reported:

Mr. Merritt in a summary of the voting up to early this afternoon, predicted that the total vote would reach 400,000, and that the outlook for Hoover was excellent. Merritt's summary contained the following:

"San Francisco, residential areas, women voting as strong as men. In Fresno, 80 per cent of a vote, women voting as strong as men. Democrats voting for Hoover. Sonoma County (wine district), women voting more heavily than men."

In a little while the women will vote as numerous as the men, everywhere, and perhaps a little more numerous. The facts are sufficient to disprove the contention that the women will not vote.

SAVING THE MOTHER

THE OLD controversy regarding the ethical right to kill the unborn child, that the life of the mother may be saved, is revived at Marquette University, a leading Wisconsin institution, from which five doctors have resigned, because the religious instructor of the college has severely criticized them for saving a mother at the expense of the child.

This is one of many points at which religion and public law are at variance. The state, being the superior secular organization, decides what is forbidden and what is permitted. Therefore in the secular sense it is not murder to save the mother, and failure to do so might even be punished as malpractice.

But men and women have the right to establish themselves in a line of conduct which is ethically superior to what the law demands, and those who join religious bodies frequently submit themselves to a discipline more rigid than the secular law demands.

The religions of the world, in many places and at many times, have forbidden what the law permits. The priest must be celibate; divorce is not permitted and so on. But such submission is voluntary, and the secular authority does not demand, nor compel, these higher disciplines.

Quite recently a jury found a verdict of criminal negligence against a father whose child died of diphtheria, he having failed to call a doctor, relying entirely upon the efficacy of prayer. Children do die of diphtheria, even though doctors are called, and there are no statistics showing whether doctors cure more cases than prayer cures. Nevertheless the jury condemned the father for not saving the life.

It is very possible that a jury might convict one who sacrificed the mother to save the child, although no such case is on record, so far as available records show.

There appears to be no secular reason why a medical college may not, if it chooses, provide by rule that the child shall not be sacrificed, but in such a case it seems very clear that the mother who comes to that hospital, and the husband, ought to be told about the rule. The secular practice being one thing, and the religious practice another, the submission should be conscious and voluntary.

WINE AND BEER PLANK

POLITICAL PARTIES are representative bodies. They exist to represent, in the political plane, the desires and aspirations of their members. The wine and beer plank, adopted by the Democratic convention at New Haven, is a matter of fact statement of the demands of a majority of the people of Connecticut. Connecticut is not a dry state. The Connecticut General Assembly is one of three legislatures which did not ratify the Eighteenth Amendment. The large majority of Connecticut electors favor the sale of light wines and beers, and the delegates of the State to the National Democratic Convention will favor a wine and beer plank in the national platform. It does not follow that they will be successful in getting such a plank. There are thirty states dry by their own ballot, and it is possible that the representation from these states may dominate the convention. The Connecticut delegates, however, can do neither more, nor less, than the circumstances permit.

YOUNG GIRL ON TRIAL FOR LIFE

Springfield, Mass., May 11. — The trial of Miss Jennie Zimmerman, aged 26, charged with the murder of her cousin, Dr. Henry Zimmerman, in this city, August 7 last year, began before Judge Nelson P. Brown in superior court yesterday. The shooting occurred in the street. The young physician who had just been discharged from the service and was still in his lieutenant's uniform, had been riding with two Manchester, N. H. women, when, the indictment charges, Miss Zimmerman approached and after a few moments conversation apart from the others, fired four shots. The doctor died instantly. Miss Zimmerman walked a short distance and collapsed. Both Dr. Zimmerman and Miss Zimmerman were well known in local Jewish circles.

FAVORABLE TO CHINA'S CLAIM IN SHANTUNG FIGHT

Shanghai, May 11. — The British Chamber of Commerce of Shanghai, representing the bulk of British interests in the Far East, has put its record on in favor of China's claims in the Shantung controversy. This was in line with action taken by American commercial organizations in China and is regarded as significant in view of the fact that a part of the British commercial enterprises in the Orient are linked with the Japanese.

"This chamber," declared A. W. Burkill, chairman of the British directorate in his address at the annual meeting, "is in full sympathy with China in her very natural desire to have control of this province returned to her."

"When one takes into consideration that Japan in taking Tatsienow with the help of British troops, was only doing this as an ally, her present attitude is hard to understand."

"She is taking deliberate steps to control the whole of the land surrounding the harbor, docks, wharves and railroad terminals, and every obstacle is put in the way of other nationals of acquiring any property in what undoubtedly is the business center. This policy can only be construed in one way, viz, that Japan is not going to allow any other nation to have an opportunity of trading on fair and equal terms with her own nationals. We, none of us want any special consideration; all we ask for is to be allowed to do business on an equal footing."

BAD CONDITION OF AFFAIRS IN CITY OF MOSCOW

Warsaw, May 11. — Advice from Moscow state that in March there was a dearth of nearly all kinds of medicines in the Russian city and that many drug stores had been compelled to close. Scarcity of wood and coal was also reported, the information received here indicating that numerous frame houses and various other buildings of wood were being demolished to be used as fuel.

A Pole who came from Moscow within the last few weeks said that while food was terribly expensive there was plenty for those who had rubles which were worth, estimated in American money, a fraction more than one cent. A shave cost 75 rubles and soap 800 rubles a pound. Cigarettes were worth about 70 rubles each and matches 100 rubles a box.

Horse meat sold for 350 rubles a pound, beef bringing 650 rubles for the same weight. Pork was 1,000 rubles a pound. Black bread retailed at 250 rubles a pound, butter 2,500 and fats 2,000 per pound.

Sugar brought 1,500 a pound when obtainable and salt was nearly always to be had at 750 rubles a pound.

Clothing for men and women was so expensive that the poorer classes either made their own suits or wore patched garments which they had owned for years.

ASKED TO SIGN CERTIFICATE OF HIS OWN DEATH

Paris, May 1. — To be asked to sign his own death certificate was the experience recently of a French soldier named Bregot. He has been reported killed in the war but was found in good health at Belfort by a bandmate who thrust the death certificate into his hands, asked him to sign it and left without explaining the reason for the extraordinary request.

Bregot has begun what is expected to be a long legal process to prove that he is still living.

TAKES OWN LIFE

Orange, Conn., May 11.—Pasquale Logiodice, 64, a farmer, living in Orange avenue, killed himself yesterday by shooting. He had been despondent since the death of his only daughter. It was on this day some weeks ago a pilot in the United States mail service landed in his airplane after having been lost in a snow storm.

GETS LIFE IMPRISONMENT

Springfield, Mass., May 11.—Frank W. Potter of Cambridge, a former navy service man, was sentenced to life imprisonment in superior court yesterday after pleading guilty to second degree murder. Potter shot and killed Deputy Sheriff George A. Bills of Palmer on a Boston and Albany train in that town February 24, 1919, when Bills and Patrolman Thomas were trying to arrest him for wounds inflicted on Detective Lieutenant J. M. Daily of the Springfield police department in a hotel here a few hours earlier. Potter was indicted for first degree murder.

YALE SUMMER SCHOOL

New Haven, May 11.—The first program in detail for the summer school at Yale University under the auspices of the state board of education, was issued yesterday. It will last from July 6 to 21, and offers an intensive course of training for high school graduates who are unable to attend normal school.